

will continue after he has left us. As society becomes more technologically centered, we must ensure that data privacy laws keep up. David was on the forefront of that, thinking, how do we protect the privacy of consumers?

As I mentioned, this will be an important issue in this upcoming Congress, and just let me be specific. David developed legislation on questions regarding the data that is collected from a wearable, a smartwatch, a contact tracing app, and other information that provides personal health information but which is not covered by current personal health information laws. Our office will continue to build on David's work in those areas, and I thank David for all he has done.

Sometimes people say: Oh my gosh, those folks who are younger than those of us in the Senate—is there something lacking? I can promise you, among these, there is nothing lacking. They are the leaders who will take your place and my place as we pass the baton to the next generation, and, in turn, they shall pass to another to leave our future brighter than it has been in the past.

NOMINATION OF JANET LOUISE YELLEN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise in support of Janet Yellen's nomination to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. I've known Janet since she became president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in 2004. I believe she is an excellent nominee for this position.

Janet has an impressive record. She served twice on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and was the first woman to chair the Fed from 2014 to 2018. She became a professor of economics at the University of California—Berkeley in 1980, she is now professor emeritus. Dr. Yellen served as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Clinton and has been very active as a distinguished fellow at the Brookings Institution.

As some have joked, Janet's husband of 42 years, George, won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, yet he is only the second-most accomplished economist in his own home.

All of these accomplishments did not come easily for a woman in the male-dominated field of economics.

Out of the 24 students who received doctorates in economics from Yale in 1971, Janet was the only woman. She has been a trailblazer her entire career.

Now, Janet brings the experience and leadership needed at the Treasury Department at this critical juncture.

I believe that Janet understands that the economy is not an abstract series of charts and figures, but a collection of real individuals, families, communities and businesses who need help now.

At the same time, she is pragmatic and recognizes the need for fiscal discipline. I believe she made that clear in her confirmation before the Finance Committee, where I had the honor of introducing her.

In short, she is the ideal candidate to head the Treasury Department at a time when we can afford nothing less. I urge the Senate to confirm her nomination. Thank you.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, as we face an economic crisis brought on by COVID-19, we will need steady, proven leadership at the Treasury Department. A highly respected economist, Dr. Yellen served first as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Federal Reserve. She has served under Democratic and Republican presidents and during periods of economic crisis and economic growth.

Last year, I worked with my colleagues to deliver bipartisan relief for those who have been harmed by the pandemic. We addressed the crisis in five bills totaling approximately \$3 trillion. Through subsequent negotiations in November and December on an additional \$900 billion package, we secured a second round of Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loans for the hardest hit small businesses and extended unemployment programs, assistance for schools, vaccine delivery, and more. But additional work remains.

During this crisis, Secretary Mnuchin proved himself to be an able partner to all of us in delivering this relief. It is my hope that Treasury Secretary-designate Yellen will build on our work. In her testimony before the Senate Finance Committee and during the subsequent questions, Dr. Yellen made clear that she understands these needs.

Our nation's eight living former Secretaries of the Treasury have provided their support for the nomination. I urge the swift confirmation of Janet Yellen to ensure that President Biden has a qualified economic team in place. Thank you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to support the nomination of Janet Yellen, a dedicated public servant and world-renowned economist, as Secretary of the Treasury.

Janet Yellen's extensive background in economics and accomplished career in the field led her to Chair the Federal Reserve, where she served with distinction in the aftermath of the great recession. Ms. Yellen brought a steady hand and wisdom befitting her experience to her responsibilities at the helm of the Federal Reserve, and as a member of the Banking Committee, I always appreciated her frank testimony and thoughtful analysis.

In her new role as Treasury Secretary, she will inherit an economic crisis caused by a mismanaged pandemic. She will be charged not only with providing historic relief in close coordination with Congress, but also with building back better to create the conditions for a dynamic economy that harnesses the potential of each and every American. I am confident in her ability to take on these urgent challenges. I look forward to voting yes on

her nomination and working closely with her in the years ahead to ensure that we build an economy that works for everyone.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YELLEN NOMINATION

Mr. PETERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Yellen nomination?

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Hagerty	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Burr	Johnson	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Sasse
Capito	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Markey	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Toomey
Duckworth	McConnell	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Ernst	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Moran	Warren
Fischer	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wicker
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Grassley	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—15

Barrasso	Cruz	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hoeben	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Paul	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and

be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

CONFIRMATION OF JANET LOUISE YELLEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to be one of the first Senators to congratulate Dr. Yellen, now Secretary Yellen, to be Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

You saw it was a strong vote, and there is no doubt that she has the credentials, the experience, the qualifications to be Secretary of the Treasury—former Chairman of the Fed. I mean, her resume is off the charts.

I know her nomination is historic for so many women across the country, including my three daughters. I am mentioning this because I certainly intended to vote for now-Secretary Yellen, and I was a “no” vote.

I want to explain my “no” vote because I had a very good conversation with her just the other day. We covered a whole bunch of topics—everything from Alaska Native corporations to the strength of the dollar, to our debt and deficit—big macroeconomic issues that are important to the country, particularly as we are in a recession. It is important to my State.

But we got to the topic of energy. We got to the topic of energy, and, reluctantly, I am saying this now because I was a bit shocked that despite a long, robust discussion, it was very difficult to get her, from my perspective, to commit to being a Secretary of the Treasury, the most important economic player in any Cabinet in any government—in the U.S. Government, besides, of course, the President—to commit to being a strong advocate for a robust, all-of-the-above energy sector for the U.S. economy.

This is not a radical proposition. I would argue that every Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton has been a robust supporter of resource development in our energy sector—again, all of it—renewables, oil, gas. And the reason is that it has been such an important driver of economic growth and jobs for pretty much our Nation’s entire existence.

Now that we are in this recession—deep recession—we need good job growth, and we need a strong recovery. To me, having the Secretary of the Treasury be a strong proponent in the debates about policy for the energy sector, I thought, was a no-brainer. As a matter of fact, I think pretty much every Secretary of the Treasury has been that person. Again, in the 2008–2009 recession—the deep, great recession—the No. 1 driver of economic growth and job growth and capital formation for the U.S. economy was the energy sector, and it was supported. Democrats and Republicans, for dec-

ades, have supported a strong energy sector.

But despite a long, respectful debate with now Secretary Yellen, with whom I certainly have a good relationship, I could not get that commitment, which I thought was surprising. As a matter of fact, I thought it was shocking, and it is the reason I reluctantly voted no because, again, she is very qualified.

What is going on here is we are starting to see policies that I believe need a national debate. We are starting to see policies—yes, we all want renewables, clean energy, but we have a really important, strong energy sector.

Prior to the pandemic, we were the world’s superpower of energy again. One of the reasons we won World War II was our energy sector. The men and women who have been producing energy—“all of the above” energy—are great patriotic workers who have been doing it for decades to the benefit of every single American.

We need a debate because what I am starting to see with the new administration, unfortunately—and I have had discussions, and, hopefully, they are not going to go down this path—are Executive actions that are going to target certain sectors of the energy sector, the U.S. economy.

Natural gas. We can be dominant in natural gas for 100 years. We are going to start targeting workers in the natural gas sector?

Oil. I know some people don’t like oil, but it is important.

We can do all of this, but right now, there seems to be hostility toward the sector and the workers and no debate. We should have that debate. It is an important debate. It is really important in my State, but I think it is really important to America.

Every Secretary of the Treasury for the last three, four, five, six, seven decades—since World War II—has always sought the goal of getting America back to energy independence. That is good for jobs. It is good for low-cost manufacturing. It is good to reduce the heating and energy bills of American families. It is good for our national security. It is good for our foreign policy. We are pretty much on the verge of doing this. And now we are going to start to unilaterally disarm?

We have gotten to the point where I can’t find anyone—and I hope I am wrong—in the Biden administration Cabinet who is going to be a proponent of a strong energy sector. Who is it? I was hoping it was going to be the Secretary of the Treasury. Maybe in our long discussion, I misinterpreted where she is going to be on this issue. Pretty much every previous Secretary—Democratic and Republican—in the history of our great Nation has really, really been an advocate for the men and women who work in the sector and for the economic growth it brings and for the help it brings to families and the good jobs it brings. So that is the rationale behind my vote.

Right now, I think we are starting to see, whether with the Keystone Pipe-

line decision or with the men and women in the building trades, who have built this country through hard work, that they are being laid off by the thousands. We had a big scare back home in my State. All weekend, I was working this issue of these Executive orders from the Biden administration, where it looked like it was going to send hundreds of people home, unemployed—oil and gas workers in my State. Why? I hope that is not the case, especially during a recession.

We need a debate on it, and I certainly hope somebody in this administration, in their principals’ meetings, talk about how we get good jobs and a strong working class. I have noticed that the National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, keeps talking about basing our policies on working-class families. You can’t get more blue-collar, strong middle class than these energy sector jobs.

I, certainly, want to have a good, constructive relationship with the Secretary of the Treasury and her team, but given the people I represent and what I am starting to see right now, I could not in good conscience vote yes when, on the basic question of “Are you committed and will you be a strong advocate for a strong energy sector—you name it: renewables, natural gas, wind, solar—all of the above?” I couldn’t get that commitment. I reluctantly voted no on someone who has a background and experience in these other areas that are important for the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have hastened to the floor because I was upstairs, waiting for the House managers to bring the article over, and I heard my friend, the distinguished Senator from Alaska, talking about his concern about the fossil fuel part of the energy sector and his dissatisfaction with what the Secretary of the Treasury was able to assure him of in that regard.

I just wanted to note that I missed a moment of the Senator’s remarks when I came walking down here, but as best as I could tell, the Senator never mentioned the term “climate change,” and he never referenced “carbon emissions.” I have to say, if we are going to deal with our energy sector, we have to deal with it in a way that takes into account carbon emissions and climate change. You can’t just whistle past those things and pretend that they are not real and act as if we can continue to go forward in the way we always have—releasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, poisoning our oceans with acidification, warming the planet, and putting coastal communities like mine at grave risk from sea level rise and storm surge. We have to address those things.